the hands approached one end of the high scaffolding, when their weight, resting upon one of the putlocks, lifted a portion of the brickwork, and caused the scaffolding to fall. Five or six of the bricklayers and labourers were precipitated to the ground, and three persons, seriously injured, were removed to St. George's Hospital.

Newington Causeway.—A coroner's jury, in the case of a man who recently met his death by an accident, alleged to have arisen from the disgraceful state of the road at Newington causeway, has returned a verdict of "Manslaughter against Mr. Pocock, chairman, and the five trustees of the South District Board of St. George, Southwark." The coroner took the recognisance of 60*l.* from Mr. Pocock for his appearance at the Central Criminal Court, and stated that he would accept the recognisances of the other trustees in a similar amount.

Mill near Belfast.—A large building, in course of erection as a preparing (flax) mill, at Beer's-bridge, near Belfast, fell to the ground last week, burying in the ruins a number of workmen, several of whom were killed. The building was roofed in, and the slating all but finished; and no cause could be assigned for the accident, save the supposition that heavy rain of the previous night had loosened the brick-work to such an extent as to unfit it for the support of the beams. The mill was the property of Messrs. Steen and Boyd, and their loss will be about 3,000*l.* Most of those engaged in the lower apartments, having been warned by the noise of the metal beams giving way on the first floor, escaped with trifling injuries. One interim result of the inquest which is being held on the deceased persons, has been the committal of Mr. Magee, the contractor, who built the mill, to prison. The coroner, however, afterwards consented to take bail—Mr. Magee in 500*l.*, and two sureties in 250*l.* each. Another interim arrangement was the appointment of Mr. Lanyon and Mr. Godwin to inspect the ruins, and report. It will be necessary, however, that a clearance be first of all made in the rubbish, which prevents inspection of the walls. The inquest has therefore been adjourned.

Charing-cross Hospital.—We are not a little surprised to observe, from the committee's annual statement of the operations of this valuable institution, that, during last year alone, no less than 3,200 cases of accident and emergency from falls off scaffolds, ladders, buildings, lofts, staircases, windows, excavations, and such like causes, were ministered to by the officials in this hospital, besides a host of other cases. Such an institution demands our best support.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL.

I AM sorry to find any person speaking of the restoration of Llandaff Cathedral in the tone assumed by your correspondent, "H. B.," in your number of December 14th. However, he appears to have either observed with so little attention, or to have reported with so little accuracy, that I think it quite possible that the reputation of the dean and his coadjutors may survive his censure. How any person who "lately had occasion to visit that most interesting spot" could sit down and so completely misrepresent one of the greatest works of modern times, is something which quite passes my powers of understanding. "H. B." was astonished on his approach to notice the unusual appearance of a gable and cross standing, to all appearance, at the end of a ruined nave; but still too new (even at the distance of half a mile) to bear out his first impression. On a nearer approach, however, it was soon accounted for by a flat roof (added by our 'modern restorers'). Surely, out of the merest respect to external effect, a roof of the same pitch as the gable could have been constructed (however bent the architect might be on spoiling the effect of the new nave internally by a flat ceiling)." "H. B." is an ingenious person, having turned the cathedral right round, and apparently confounded the works of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, mistaking the devastations of Mr. Wood for the restorations of Dean Conybeare! There certainly is "a gable and cross forming," not only "in appearance," but in reality, "the end of a ruined nave;" but they are the original work of the thirteenth century (slightly altered in the fifteenth); so that if these be "new" (even "at the distance of half a mile"—a curious standard of novelty), I am at a loss to know what may be "H. B.'s ideas of antiquity. There is also "a gable and cross," "to be accounted for (in "H. B.'s" phraseology) by a flat roof added by our modern restorers;" but they do not "form the end of a ruined nave," but the east end of the restored Lady Chapel. To which does "H. B." refer? As to the latter, you know from my published remarks on the subject that I disapprove of the flat roof and sham gable as much as "H. B.," but the desire "to spoil the effect of the new nave internally by adding a flat ceiling," which he, not very graciously or charitably, attributes to "the architect," exists wholly in his own imagination. There is no "new nave" at all; the nave remaining in ruins, according to the showing of his own first paragraph: the renovation of the eighteenth century affected the choir, that of the nineteenth the presbytery and Lady Chapel. There is certainly no flat ceiling of less than a century's standing, none in any connection with any cross or gable: the Lady Chapel retains its ancient stone vaulting: the presbytery has a modern roof of timber: even of Mr. Wood's choir, the ceiling is, I think, not quite flat, and at all events will not last much longer, if it still exists. It is, indeed, true that I individually very much wish to see a flat ceiling in the nave and choir; but so far is the architect from being "bent on spoiling their effect internally by adding" anything of the kind, that he differs completely from me on the subject; and probably my flat ceiling—Peterborough being the model—would not very much resemble that which exists in the imagination of "H. B."

In his last paragraph your correspondent would almost seem, by the censure with which he concludes, to have attributed the structure of Mr. Wood to the present restorers! I will not ask "H. B." whether he has read what the dean and myself have written on the subject; I will only ask, has he really entered the church whose zealous guardians he has taken upon him to malign?

EDWARD A. FREEMAN

THE LIGHT-TAX ABOLITION MOVEMENT.

NEITHER the Government, in according their warm support to the International Exhibition movement, nor the Industrial Commissioners, in selecting the design of the Great Glass Building, we dare say, calculated on one excellent end subserved by these proceedings,—namely, the concentration of the public attention, spite of the "drum ecclesiastic," upon GLASS. The steady contemplation of the public eye upon whole acres of that glittering and attractive material has naturally begotten a desire to have a few more acres of it spread over the country and distributed amongst them: and they are likely to insist upon it now that they have thought of it,—now that the Government and the grand Commission have presented them with the leading idea, which, by the natural and inevitable laws of psychological association, suggests not only all that is good in glass, but all that is evil in its absence. The movement for the abolition of the tax on window-glass, and through that on light and air, on health and comeliness, on cheerful spirits and on cleanly habits, has fairly begun. May it speedily come to a prosperous issue.

Meetings of a determined character are being held in all quarters of the country; and our present purpose is to notify the occurrence of a few of these as they transpired. At a meeting last week of the inhabitants of St. Anne's, Westminster, held in Dean-street, Soho, it was unanimously determined to petition Parliament for a "total, immediate, and unconditional repeal of the obnoxious tax." At this as well as at every other, all those arguments which have been so repeatedly urged in our columns were rehearsed; but on these we need not now enlarge.

The work is not yet done; and nothing but a determined perseverance in the present auspicious course *will* do. At the meeting under notice, it was also unanimously resolved to urge a refusal of further supplies to Government, should they refuse the total repeal of this odious tax. With reference to the deputation from the Metropolitan Sanitary Association to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Nicholay stated that he had that day accompanied the deputation to the Chancellor, and his name (Mr. Nicholay's) being mentioned, the right hon. gentleman stated to him that he had proposed next Tuesday to receive the metropolitan delegates' deputation on this question. He told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that that would be too short a time, *because the organisation was so great and so extensive that it would astonish him.* After entering into a variety of details, it appeared that the meeting was postponed for the present, on Mr. Nicholay assuring the Chancellor of the Exchequer that *if pressure from without were wanting, he should have it to his heart's content.* Various meetings, Mr. Nicholay added, were yet to be held in the Tower Hamlets, Hackney, &c.

Since the meeting in St. Anne's, Westminster, took place, a great meeting has been held in St. Marylebone (on 20th inst.), Mr. Nicholay chairman, when delegates attended from Islington, who wore broad blue scarves, on which were traced, in white letters, the words "No Surrender," "Unconditional Repeal." On the hustings were Lord D. Stuart, M.P., Sir De Lacy Evans, M.P., Mr. C. Lushington, M.P., Mr. Williams, M.P., Mr. Mowatt, M.P., &c. &c. Resolutions similar to those voted at the meeting before noticed were here also unanimously passed, contingent refusal of supplies inclusive.

At Bedford, a numerous meeting was held on Wednesday in last week, when resolutions were also unanimously passed, which are formally based, as indeed were all those already noted, on the idea first struck out by ourselves, but now so entirely public property that we are almost ashamed to claim it,—that the window tax is virtually a tax on light, air, and health: petitions to parliament were at once made out, based on these resolutions, and are in course of signature.

At Southampton similar petitions are in progress. At Salisbury, the same, with resolutions in which even stronger references are made to the bearing of the tax on Sanitary Reform in general, and ventilation and light in particular.

A large meeting was held at Bath on the 16th inst., in which no surrender—no modification—but total repeal—was the password, as it has been everywhere else. Here, too, of course, appropriate resolutions were passed by acclamation. One of the town councillors said he had only two ideas on the subject of the window-tax—one was that the tax was a very bad thing, and the other that its repeal would be a very good thing. It had been said that the tax must have originated in the regions of darkness: whether this was so or not he would not undertake to determine, but they all knew it came from a *Pitt*. They might remember that a poor but witty fellow, who was obliged to block up some of his windows when the tax was put on, had them painted in the shape of the back of a book, and labelled them "Pitt's Works, Vol. I." and "Pitt's Works, Vol. II." Now he wanted no more of Pitt's works—no modification of the tax—all or none—"the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill"—a total and unconditional repeal of the window-tax. Petitions were also determined on.

The citizens of York held a meeting on the subject on Tuesday week, and meetings of a similar character have been held in several other towns; but our space and time are both up for the present.

TENDERS FOR THE BRENTWOOD LUNATIC ASYLUM, ESSEX.—Mr. Editor, what do you say to the following?—

Smith and Appelford	£80,420
Kirk and Parry	74,126
Sanders and Debham	73,500
Trego	71,676
Hoof and Hill	68,545
Harrison	67,972
Jackson	67,651
Lucas Brothers	66,809
Curtis	61,840
Piper	57,980
Myers (accepted)	57,920
Mortimer (withdrawn)	43,875

A. Z.

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